Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method for determining whether a compound is capable of inhibiting the interaction of a peptide with a receptor for advanced glycation end product (RAGE), which comprises:

(a) admixing:

(i) the peptide, wherein amino groups of the peptide are inactivated by chemical derivitization,

(ii) RAGE or a fragment thereof, and

(iii) the compound;

(b) determining the amount of the peptide bound to RAGE or the fragment thereof, and

(c) comparing the amount of bound peptide determined in step (b) with the amount determined when the peptide is admixed with RAGE or a fragment thereof in the absence of the compound, thereby determining whether the compound is capable of inhibiting the interaction of the peptide with RAGE or fragment thereof, wherein a reduction in the amount of binding in the presence of the compound indicates that the compound is capable of inhibiting the interaction.

2-31. (Canceled)

32. (Original) A method for inhibiting the interaction of an advanced glycation endproduct (AGE) with a receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (RAGE) in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of a compound effective to inhibit the interaction between the AGE and RAGE in the subject.

33-48. (Canceled)

49. (Original) A method for inhibiting the interaction of an advanced glycation endproduct (AGE) with a receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (RAGE) in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of quinine or a derivative thereof effective to inhibit the interaction between the AGE and RAGE in the subject.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Original) A method for inhibiting the interaction of an advanced glycation endproduct (AGE) with a receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (RAGE) in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of quinidine or a derivative thereof effective to inhibit the interaction between the AGE and RAGE in the subject.

52-57. (Canceled)

58. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the subject is a human,

a primate, a mouse, a rat or a dog.

59. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the administration comprises intralesional, intraperitoneal, intramuscular or intravenous injection; infusion; liposome-mediated delivery; or topical, nasal, oral, ocular or otic delivery.

60. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the compound is administered hourly, daily, weekly, monthly or annually.

61. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the effective amount of the compound comprises from about 0.000001 mg/kg body weight to about 100 mg/kg body weight.

62. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the subject is suffering from kidney failure.

63. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the subject is suffering from diabetes.

64. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the subject is suffering from systemic lupus erythematosus or inflammatory lupus nephritis.

65. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the subject is an obese subject.

66. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the subject is an aged subject.

67. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the subject is suffering from amyloidoses.

68. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the subject is suffering from inflammation.

69. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising administering to the subject a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier during the administration of the compound.

70. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the carrier comprises a diluent.

71. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the carrier comprises a virus, a liposome, a microencapsule, a polymer encapsulated cell or a retroviral vector.

72. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the carrier is an aerosol, intravenous, oral or topical carrier.

73. (New) The method of claim 69, wherein the compound is administered from a time release implant.

74. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the derivative has a different chemical structure than quinine and the derivative has the same overall charge as quinine.

75. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the derivative has a different chemical structure than quinidine and the derivative has the same overall charge as quinidine.